Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Thursday 18 Mar 2021 until 23:59 on Friday 19 Mar 2021

Forecast Issued on Wednesday 17 Mar 2021 at 12:20

Confidence: High for generally settled pattern due to the ridge of high pressure extending from the west, but medium for any cloud cover detail, also for the extent of patchy rain and drizzle for Friday.

Headline for Thursday 18 Mar 2021: Mainly dry with occasional hazy sunshine.

Mountain weather hazards on Thursday 18 Mar 2021

Blizzards No Likelihood	**Heavy Snow** No Likelihood	**Storm force winds** No Likelihood
Gales No Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** No Likelihood	**Poor visibility** Low Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** No Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** Low Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Cloudy	Partly cloudy (night)	Cloudy	Cloudy	Sunny intervals	Cloudy	Sunny intervals	Mist
Precipitation probability							
<05%	<05%	<05%	<05%	<05%	<05%	10%	20%

Forecast for Thursday 18 Mar 2021

Weather: A dry day for most with plenty of higher cloud limiting the brightness to hazy spells of sunshine. Cloud thickening from the east during the evening, bringing the risk of some patchy rain or drizzle late evening, chiefly to eastern ranges.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 90% by day.

Visibility: Good, becoming moderate or poor in later rain, drizzle and very poor in cloud, with base generally well above the summits, before lowering and thickening from the east late evening.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/mountain-forecast
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Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Thursday 18 Mar 2021

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	14/18 N	15/18 N	19/23 N	20/25 N	19/25 N	16/22 N	19/23 N	21/28 N	24/33 NE
600	9/13 NW	10/15 NW	12/17 NW	11/16 N	10/15 N	12/17 NW	11/18 NW	13/20 N	16/24 NE
300	2/12 NW	4/14 NW	4/14 NW	6/16 NW	7/18 N	7/17 NW	5/17 N	6/19 N	6/19 N
Valley	2/8 N	1/7 NW	2/6 NW	4/13 N	6/16 NW	6/14 NW	6/16 N	7/19 N	10/22 NE

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	3/-2	3/-2	4/-1	4/-2	4/-0	5/1	5/1	3/-2	2/-4
600	4/1	4/0	4/0	4/1	6/3	7/4	7/4	5/2	4/-1
300	5/4	5/3	4/3	6/4	9/7	10/8	9/7	7/6	6/4
Valley	7/6	7/6	6/5	9/8	11/10	12/11	10/9	9/8	8/6
Freezing Level*	2100m	2000m	1900m	1800m	1800m	1800m	1700m	1800m	2000m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Nothing to add.

Forecast for Friday 19 Mar 2021

Weather: A rather cloudy day with patchy light rain or drizzle, though driest and briefly brighter conditions expected across western most ranges, chiefly late in the day.

Maximum wind: North or Northeast beginning mean 20-25 mph with gusts reaching 35mph across most exposed ridges and summits, easing light and variable from mid-day.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 10% or less

Visibility: Mostly moderate or poor, and in the hill fog very poor, with bases extensive from 450-650m across eastern and central ranges.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 3 Celsius increasing 10 Celsius during the afternoon
At 800m: Plus 3 Celsius
Freezing level: Above all summits

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Wednesday 17 March Location: Helvellyn summit at 12:05 Full report: We are continuing to provide the Fell Top Reports for people undertaking their daily local exercise during the lockdown. We would like to remind everyone that Government guidance stipulates that people should only exercise locally, not leaving the village, town or city where they live. Tuesday's turbo thaw had halted this morning owing to a combination of an overnight frost at altitude and the height and location of the remaining snow. However, as I left the hill this afternoon it was noticeably warmer so the daytime thaw has probably recommenced. The snow level remains around 650m with the vast majority lying above 850m; however even above this height large areas of the fells up to and including summit level are now free from snow. The largest patches of snow lie in sheltered spots and hollows and on predominantly, but far from exclusively, north and east facing aspects where above 900m there are drifts deep enough to swallow a 60cm ice axe, although such depth is the exception. With the overnight frost following a significant thaw, the snowpack was notably firmer compared to Tuesday and, in places, hard and icy making venturing onto steep and exposed patches treacherous without crampons and especially an ice axe. There are cornices above, again mainly but not exclusively, N and E facing slopes. Although small many have slumped and have cracks indicating their instability, so please keep well clear of such edges and advise those with less experience to do likewise; indeed on the Helvellyn summit plateau there are footprints far, far too close to the corniced edge. Exposed routes above the snowline, such as Striding and Swirral Edges, are in mixed condition. Their crests are largely bare dry rock giving excellent traction; however both exits are guarded with unavoidable deep, steep banks of snow. On Striding Edge in particular this snow was in places hard and icy and located where a slip without the means to stop yourself with a swift ice axe arrest could have extremely serious consequences. Therefore anyone attempting such routes must be experienced in winter mountaineering and be equipped with both ice axe and crampons. With a summit wind chill below freezing, full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots and equipment are all essential for anyone going out onto the fells. Please be conservative with your plans and know both your limits and also when to turn back. A pandemic is not the time to be pushing your comfort zone. For those interested in the weather stats, there were wind gusts far stronger (estimated at 30mph) than measured on the summit! Temperature: plus 3.4 C Maximum wind speed 20.4mph Wind chill: minus 3.3 C Average wind speed: 11.1mph
Issued at: 1220 on Wed 17 Mar 2021

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